Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Soundings

Northwest Washington Synod

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A Word From The Bishop, Don Maier

So those who welcomed his message were baptized....they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
Acts 2: 41,42 NRSV

Toward The Spring Of Life

Previous issues of *Soundings* and *The Spirit* have introduced *Toward The Spring of Life*-- effort in our Synod to help congregations develop an effective ministry of outreach to adults who have not been baptized or who are seeking to reaffirm baptism.

Rev. Bev Piro coordinates the effort in our Synod. She organizes annual training workshops and consults with congregations who adopt the catechumenal ministry.

Last month, on the Third Sunday of Easter, we added another feature to *Toward The Spring of Life*. Following an ancient model, I hosted a Service for the newly baptized adults in our synod. The newly baptized sat beside others like themselves, to pray with and for each other, and to receive instruction and encouragement from their bishop. The highlight of the Service for me was during the Sharing of the Peace when I was able to greet each one individually, speak a blessing and give a small memento—an olive wood cross from the Holy Land — for each to carry as a reminder of who they belong to and how they got to be that.

Earlier that week, I had presented the Newhart Lecture at the alumni gathering at the

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Toward The Spring Of Life

Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia. My topic was the Catechumenate. In the fall of this year, I will join a team of people from our synod, at the invitation of the Lutheran Church in Sweden, to introduce the Catechumenate to segments of that church.

This is a joy for me: to see this ministry taking hold in our synod, and the opportunities we have to bring encouragement to other expressions of the Church.

Thanks A Million

In 1999, the 25th anniversary of the World Hunger Appeal, ELCA members gave $16 million, topping past levels by $3 million. The ELCA also contributed an additional $6 million in 1999 to help victims of disasters in the United States and around the world.

ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants Awarded

- Cooperative Community Lunch, Lutheran Social Services Northwest Area (housed at Central, Seattle) $2,500.
- Church of Mary Magdalene Ministry to Homeless Women, Seattle, $2,500.
- Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County, Rising Need Interim Support, $2,500.
- St. John, Seattle, Soup Kitchen, $2,000.

Assembly News

Speakers are confirmed. Hotel rooms are booked. Lunches are ordered.

Centered around our mission "Sent to Witness and Serve," the 2000 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly is less than four weeks away. The Assembly is schedule for Friday, June 16, and Saturday, June 17, at Salem, Mount Vernon. Registration begins at 8 a.m. on Friday morning.

During the Assembly, voting members will hear stories of witness and service from seven different synod ministries. We will hear how lives have been touched, how faith has been uplifted, and how gifts have been received.

Fellowship is an important part of our faith journey. At 7:30 p.m. on Friday night the Women of the ELCA will host a dessert buffet as a fund-raiser. This event will give us an opportunity to taste an array of incredible cakes, pies, cookies, and much more. Food will only be one part of the evening's festivities: The Overman Family Musicians of Skagit Valley will perform; and the St. Matthew, Renton, youth drama troupe performing *God, and Man, and a Fish.* (A one-act story on the life of Jonah.)

Other Assembly news: Bishop David Wold of the Southwestern Washington Synod is the keynote speaker; Pastor Nancy Winder (Faith, Seattle) and Pastor Martha Myers (Renton, Renton) are the Bible Study leaders; and, a primer session on *Called to Common Mission* will be held at lunch on Friday.

(For more Assembly information, please check out your Assembly packets or go on line to www.lutheransnw.org.)

Within Our Family

Prayers for Strength and Healing for...

† **Rev. Donna Ruggles** who had carotid artery surgery on May 10. Ruggles is pastor at Lakeridge, Seattle.

† **Jean Wahlstrom**, missionary in Tanzania, who returned to Seattle in April to have surgery.

To Keep in Our Prayers...

† The family of **Rev. Harvey Neufeld.** Neufeld passed away following heart surgery (5 bypasses). Services were held on Friday, May 5 and Monday, May 8, in Tacoma. Harvey was retired, having served for many years as Vice President of Church Relations at Pacific Lutheran University. Peace to his memory.

Congratulations to...

† **Rev. Jennifer Lewison and Steven Schultz** who were married on April 29. Lewison is associate pastor at First Evangelical, Mount Vernon.

News and Notes

† The members of **Advent, Mill Creek,** recently voted to take a leap of faith and accept an offer from Lowes--Eagle Hardware--to purchase the church property. Where the congregation will relocate has yet to be determined.

† **Nativity, Renton, and Bethlehem, Marysville,** took advantage of a good thing. The congregations accepted the Lutheran Vespers' challenge from **Bethlehem, Seattle.** (Bethlehem in Seattle's challenge was: the first two congregations, clusters, or individuals that supported at least two Sunday programs would receive an extra Sunday, at no charge. The extra Sunday would be paid for by Bethlehem.) Including the challenge Sunday, Bethlehem, Marysville, supported seven Sundays in April and May; Nativity will be supporting June 4, 11, and 18.

† Mark your calendars for the **Faith Festival** this fall with Walt Wangerin: Faith Festival Bishop's Convocation on Friday, September 29, at St. Andrew's in Bellevue; Faith Festival Workshops on Saturday, September 30, at Our Savior's in Everett; and Faith Festival Worship Service on Sunday, October 1, at the Everett Civic Auditorium. For more details, check out the Synod web site at www.lutheransnw.org or the Synod insert in the July supplement to *The Lutheran* magazine.

Web Site News...

† A new web site has been built for **Advent, Mill Creek.** Check out the site at www.adventlutheran.net. The site recorded 1,900 hits the first month.

† **The Northwest Washington Synod Web Site** received more than 8,000 hits in May. You can find information about: the Assembly, Faith Festival, and much more. Check it out at: www.lutheransnw.org.

† **Church Council of Greater Seattle** has a website: www.churchcouncilseattle.org.

† **Immanuel, Seattle,** has a website: www.immanuelseattle.org.

George Barna Seminar

Mark your calendars now for a special opportunity to hear George Barna at a seminar on Tuesday, October 31, right here in our Synod. (Location to be decided.)

The seminar will focus on how churches create effective leadership teams, how to understand and reach the unchurched, how to implement an impactive discipleship, and how to evaluate your ministry to maximize its influence. Barna will present his latest findings on each topic, and highlight congregations involved in these ministries. There will also be breakout groups to discuss the information presented by Barna. Watch for more details in future *Soundings*.

Sunday School Coordinator Position Open

Cross of Christ, Bellevue, has a Sunday School Coordinator position open. This is a part-time position from June 2000 through June 2001 (15 hours). The successful candidate will provide leadership and direction for the Sunday School (ages 3 through high school). Salary: Depending upon skills. Contact Cross of Christ at 425-746-7300.

Office Coordinator Position Open

Our Savior, Issaquah, has a full-time Office Coordinator position open. Contact Pastor Larry Thomas at 425-392-4169 for position description and further information.

Read the current issue of *Soundings* or *The Spirit* by simply logging on to our Synod web site at: www.lutheransnw.org. (You can also read past issues of the newsletters.) The deadline for the August issues of *Soundings* and *The Spirit* is Monday, July 3.

Soundings

News and information of the

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The Northwest Washington Synod is a ministry partner with: The Northern Work Area, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus; and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia

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